

Vote result: Oct. 29

The result of the BCTF vote on province-wide strike action will be released publicly on Saturday, October 29.

BCTF President Larry Kuehn said it will take until then to have an official tally as the procedure requires locals to submit written confirmation of their results and an outside auditor, Touche Ross and Company, to ensure the count is accurate.

All BCTF members will be informed of the result through *Action Update*.

In the meantime, despite the apparent recent conciliatory gesture of Premier Bill Bennett, Kuehn said it is important for the BCTF to continue to prepare to take strong action.

"Nothing has fundamentally changed," said Kuehn. "We will remain in determined opposition until the many unacceptable aspects of Premier Bennett's program are resolved to our satisfaction."

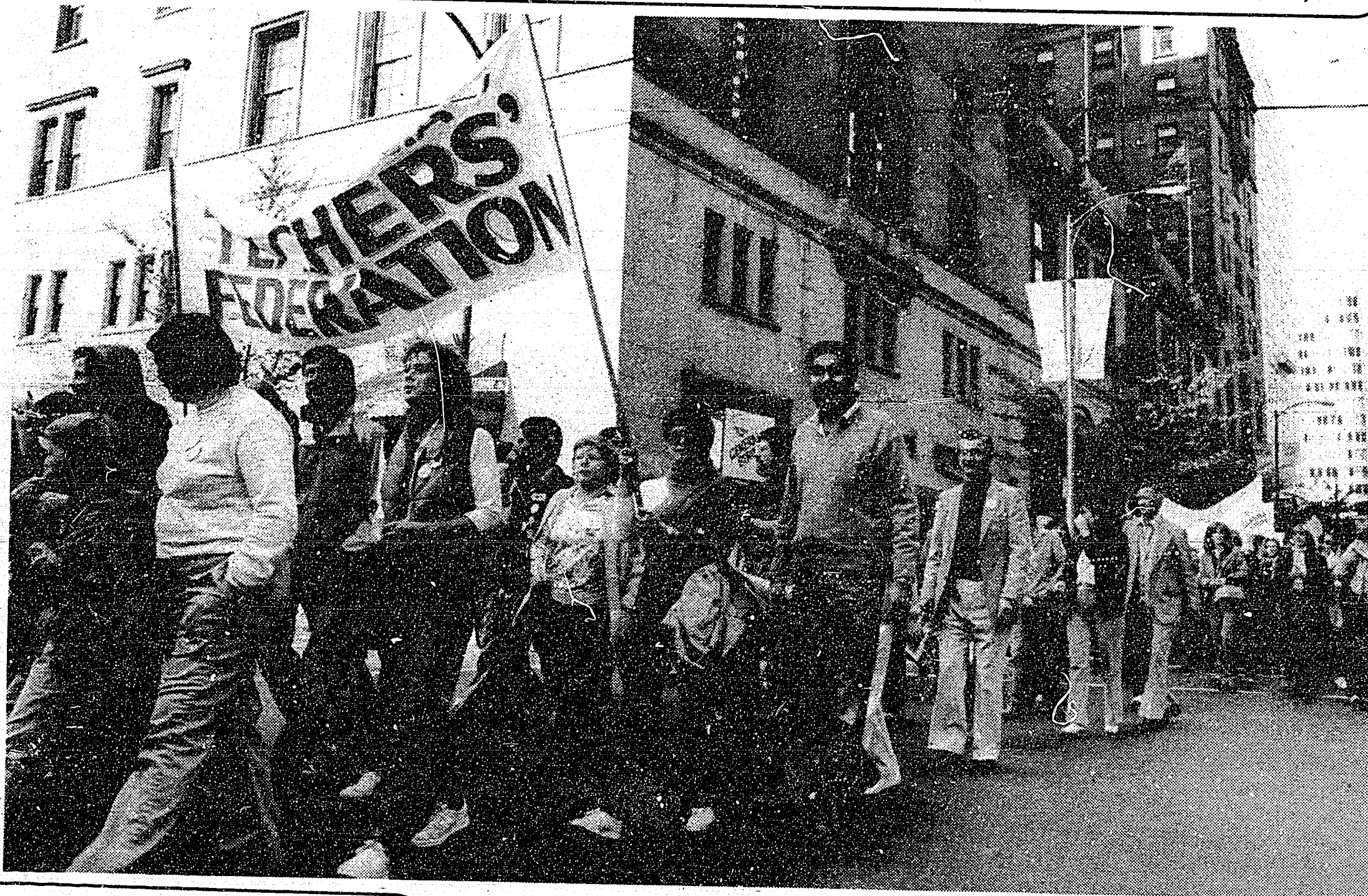


BCTF Newsletter

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Teachers formed a strong contingent in the 50,000 to 70,000 who participated in the Oct. 15 March for Rights.

Solidarity marches for rights

They kept coming, wave after wave.

Concerned British Columbians — men, women, young, old, handicapped in wheelchairs — marching for their rights.

They were from unions, human rights organizations, ethnic minorities, student groups, teachers' and faculty associations, tenants, senior citizens organizations, women's groups and unemployed action centres.

Under a colourful array of banners and signs ("Restraint is no excuse for tyranny", "Democracy is dead", "Let them eat coal"), they marched through downtown Vancouver on the sunny Saturday morning of October 15. Filing past the Hotel Vancouver, scene of the Social Credit Party convention, the crowd chanted, "Bennett must go, Bennett must go," and occasionally some burst into song. One trio entertained with banjo and guitar:

*We march with petitions in hand,
We'll fight your right-wing budget
Till there's justice in this land.
We're marching in solidarity,
Solidarity, solidarity;
We're marching in solidarity,
Till we bring this government down.*

This, the Solidarity March for Rights, was the largest public protest demonstration ever seen in British Columbia: the news media said police estimated the crowd at 50,000, the organizers said more like 70,000 took part.

At the march-end rally on the Queen Elizabeth Theatre plaza, Art Kube, B.C. Federation of Labour president and Operation Solidarity chief, told the crowd that the march was indicative of the growing strength and unity of Solidarity and its determination to restore social, democratic and trade union rights in B.C.

"By what we have accomplished today," Kube said, "we have proven to the doubters in this society that the demise of the coalition is at least five years premature."

He concluded by calling on members of the Bennett government to take note of the growing public protest and to take "the earplugs out of their ears and start listening."

Renate Shearer, chairperson of the Solidarity Coalition, then read out a detailed "Declaration of Rights of the People of British Columbia", which the rally adopted by voice vote and which is

to form the basis for Solidarity's continuing campaign. (See page 2 for full text.)

There is no way of knowing how much influence this protest carried, along with indications of possible widespread job actions if the government went through with unjust firings of public sector workers, but within five days (October 20) Premier Bill Bennett went on television to give a speech that appeared to open the way to conciliation.

But it was all wrapped in hardline rhetoric. "B.C. must never be governed by protests and rallies," said Bennett, indicating he was not going to move on his basic position. "Our goals are firm and unshakeable because no sincere person can challenge their necessity."

The premier, however, announced that the legislature was being adjourned for an indefinite period to allow for consultation and conciliation, urging concerned groups to meet with his ministers. He also invited the B.C. Government Employees' Union to negotiate layoff procedures with the government and said that he may consider delaying the planned termina-

See "All public" page 3

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Public protest growing over mandatory provincial exams

Public protests are growing against the new mandatory provincial Grade 12 examinations to be introduced this June. Parents are voicing their objections in the news media, students are circulating a petition and at least one school board has strongly condemned the tests.

And the BCTF Executive Committee, stressing the lack of consultation and inappropriateness of the tests, has repeated its earlier advice that teachers should not participate in the preparation or marking of the new provincial examinations.

The executive pointed out that in announcing the tests, which are to count 50 per cent of the year's marks, Education Minister Jack Heinrich had gone back on a June 1 agreement to have a review committee (consisting of ministry, BCTF and BCSTA representatives) do a full study of possible modifications to provincial testing. In the earlier statement the executive said: "To participate now would be to condone unacceptable methods of dealing with matters of great importance to everyone in the education community."

The executive's position was also based on concerns expressed by members around the province. Those main concerns include:

- the 50 per cent weighting is excessive; unfair to the students and inappropriate, effectively denying the value of many classroom projects, oral reports and essays;
- too much emphasis will be placed on the final exams, tending to restrict opportunities for instructional innovation and wide-ranging learning experiences, forcing the whole system to be geared to examinations;
- while not opposed to evaluation, teachers are disturbed at having no part in developing an appropriate testing program and are anxious about how the test results will be used;
- the examination scheme assumes there is one curriculum to be taught to all B.C. students, ignoring the need to take

account of individual and community differences;

- the test results will not be available until August, which may prevent many students from registering for university in the fall;
- the percentages allotted to various sections of work in the ministry's evaluation calendar do not coincide with the percentages allotted in the curriculum guides, raising uncertainty as to which teachers should follow;
- the appeal process is questionable; students can appeal their marks, but their tests will not be re-marked.

A student move to persuade the ministry to change the examination plan was also launched in Vancouver recently as student council representatives met at Eric Hamber Secondary School to develop a protest petition, now being circulated throughout metro secondary schools.

Deborah Youngson, president of the Hamber student council, said students object to the unfair weighting of the exams, their potential for distorting the education process and the fact that the results may arrive too late for university registration.

"Ten months of learning will now be equal to two hours worth of examination by a computerized test," she said. "Work should be tested throughout an entire year not only on one day."

The Maple Ridge School Board has also come out in opposition to the mandatory provincial examination plan for many of the same reasons. In a letter to the minister, the board cited the extravagant waste of financial and professional resources involved; the fact that the extensive examination schedule reduces instructional time; the program will cause an increase in dropouts due to greater bias in favour of academic curricula and instruction; and the inappropriate weighting which is unfair to teachers and conscientious students.

In urging the minister to reconsider his decision on exams, the board wrote: "Our secondary school curricula generally are relevant, diverse, well-developed and appropriate to the broad spectrum of student needs. In response to changing conditions and times, our schools now perform greatly enhanced roles as social, cultural and recreational as well as academic institutions."

"Our teachers now are competent, confident professionals with extensive training and expertise. We also have knowledgeable, experienced school and district support and administrative staff able to provide strong leadership and supervision. Elementary school self-evaluation, secondary school accreditation, Provincial Learning Assessment Tests, standardized tests and much more, all provide the ministry, school districts and the public with much information valuable in monitoring and evaluating performance and in reassuring those unfamiliar with the facts who might question the very good job which we feel our schools already are doing."

A Declaration of Rights of the People of British Columbia

We believe that the measure of a society's humanity is the degree to which it provides rights that protect all its participants, its minorities no less than its majorities;

We believe that the substance of justice in a society is the degree to which rights are accorded to the poor and the powerless, and not simply to the rich and the strong;

And we believe that the test of a society's commitment to democracy is its resolve to guarantee those rights even in the face of hardship and adversity;

Therefore we declare that in a democratic, just and humane British Columbia every person has these fundamental rights which no government may justifiably extinguish:

- The right to protection from all forms of unreasonable discrimination, by legislation that ensures human rights and programs that confront prejudice.
- The right to freedom of expression and opinion without fear of reprisal.
- The right to universally accessible, comprehensive and confidential medical care.
- The right to a public school system that allows all children to develop to the full extent of their potential, and to post-secondary education that is accessible to all.
- The right of senior citizens, disabled persons and visible minorities to participate fully and equally in society.
- The right of every woman, in fact as well as in principle, to a full and equal place in society.
- The right to receive adequate social services and assistance.
- The right to freedom from arbitrary or unjustified eviction or increase in rents.
- The right to universal accessibility of necessary legal assistance.
- The right to local powers of decision-making about the provision of social services, and effective regional planning of the development of our communities.
- The right of all employees to negotiate freely and collectively with their employer all the terms and conditions under which they work.
- The right to freedom from arbitrary or unjustified termination of employment.
- The right to open and democratic government, scrutiny of government actions, due process of law, full parliamentary debate and consultation with affected groups on all legislative proposals, and express submission of fundamental changes in law or rights to the electors.

This declaration is made in the face of an unprecedented legislative assault that seeks to eliminate or subvert existing rights and protections. This cannot be allowed. We also assert, therefore, that the people of this province have the right and the responsibility to resist. We shall do so with all of our strength.



External review commission exonerates Smithers teacher

Ralph Sundby
Teacher Personnel Services

An external review commission has cleared a Smithers teacher, Madeleine Sauve, of blame in the distribution last January of certain sex education materials.

The commission, comprising Norman Robinson, professor of education administration at Simon Fraser University and Michael Suddaby, assistant superintendent of Maple Ridge School District, was established by the BCTF in July in an attempt to resolve issues related to the employment and assignment of Madeleine Sauve, counsellor of Chandler Park Middle School in Smithers. A number of parents objected when Sauve distributed to

a guidance class a list of typical questions asked by teenagers about sex. The list had been developed by a ministry of human resources worker several years ago and used in community workshops around the province. Its purpose was to stimulate discussion which would result in more dignified and sensitive handling of human sexuality.

"The first point the commission wishes to make abundantly clear with reference to Ms. Sauve's actions is that she cannot be blamed for the initial incident which sparked the Smithers unrest," stated Robinson and Suddaby in their report. "She handed out the 'Typical Questions ...' material without any idea it might cause difficulty in the community."

The commission emphasized its view that Ms. Sauve did not make any error in judgment and that she "acted in good faith on the basis of the best information possible" that no adverse reaction would occur.

The commission concluded that Ms. Sauve was "an innocent victim of the 'Typical Questions ...' incident at Chandler Park School." But while they heard unanimous praise for her outstanding work as a counsellor both at Chandler Park School and with previous employers, they criticized a number of Ms. Sauve's subsequent actions in defence of her rights. "She has a truly enviable record as an educator" stated the commissioners. "Few

See "Vander Zalm" page 4

All public sector jobs at stake

From page 1

tion of 1,600 government employees — firings which the BCGEU had indicated it was prepared to strike over.

In response, Art Kube said Solidarity was prepared to open discussions with the government despite concern over the vagueness of Bennett's speech and the fact that it did not address many of the other unacceptable aspects of his legislation — other infringements on bargaining rights, human rights, tenants' rights, medicare and social service cuts. (On its part, the BCGEU said the premier's failure to cancel plans for arbitrary dismissal of 1,600 of its members meant strike plans would proceed for the October 31 deadline.)

Following an October 22-23 weekend meeting of delegates, the Solidarity Coalition revealed that, while prepared to negotiate with the government, it would not abandon its basic concerns, which Bennett has not yet addressed.

"The main goal is to win back for people those rights which have been lost through the legislation which has already gone through and to work toward those rights that are laid out in the declaration," Renate Shearer, coalition chairperson, told a news conference.

BCTF President Larry Kuehn reminded reporters that nothing had yet changed on Bill 3, the Public Sector Restraint Act, which could be the trigger for serious job action. "What is at stake for the government workers in Bill 3 is at issue for every public sector worker in this province," he said. "Those provisions which allow for unjust firings apply to all of the public sector. So it's never been an issue just for government workers, or the BCGEU, but rather for every public sector union in the province."

This was underlined a few days later when B.C. Federation of Labour Secretary-Treasurer Mike Kramer reaffirmed the federation's support of all public unions in their fight against Bill 3.

"There will be no resolution of this dispute if the government merely postpones or delays the Bill 3 firings slated for October 31," Kramer said. "The dispute over Bill 3 is of such fundamental importance to both the trade union movement and the people of British Columbia, that there must be a conclusive resolution prior to October 31."

The program of escalating job action would be implemented, he warned, if the government fails to negotiate in good faith or fails to offer a just resolution to

"Threatened Bill 3 firings must be resolved by October 31"



News of the demise of Solidarity is at least five years' premature, Art Kube (left) tells cheering rally, following a round of protest songs by (below) a teachers' group.

public sector employees. In a related development, the BCTF, the Hospital Employees Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees have been granted the right to have representatives sit in on the negotiations underway between the BCGEU and the government.

In the earlier news conference Shearer announced that, failing satisfactory resolution of the Bill 3 issue, the coalition was prepared to support the province-wide escalating job action plan endorsed earlier by the B.C. Federation of Labour executive. Under that plan, the BCGEU would go out on its own in the first week of November. Then every few days a different public sector component would join the strike, eventually resulting in a walkout of all unions covered by Bill 3. The education sector would be the second group out, according to the plan, followed by Crown corporations, civic workers, transportation and hospital workers.

"The coalition", she said, "is prepared to back job action up to and including a general strike." In addition, the coalition is also considering plans for consumer action.

As for a longer term campaign, Shearer said the coalition has agreed to a process by which local Solidarity coalition groups would develop alternative economic and social policy proposals to those currently followed by the government. Within a few months the coalition also intends to organize a "People's Commission" to tour the province to hear these

submissions and those of other community groups on economic and social policy. This would be culminated, she said, by a conference on this theme in the spring to serve as a catalyst for a change in provincial direction.

Solidarity, Shearer emphasized, was prepared for a long fight.

Legislative steamroller rolls over teachers

The B.C. legislature is to have an enforced recess during what must be the strangest legislative session of any house in Canada at any time.

Using all-night sittings, imposing closure on the opposition while not defending its own position, the government has rammed through in the last month most of its contentious legislative package. Four important bills, those dealing with renters, BCGEU bargaining rights, medical services and human rights have not been completed.

Bills that most affect teachers, Bill 3, the Public Sector Restraint Act, Bill 6, the Education (Interim) Finance Amendment Act, 1983, Bill 11, the Compensation Stabilization Act and Bill 26, the Employment Standards Amendment Act, 1983, have all received third reading and royal assent. (Some of these still await proclamation by cabinet regulation before coming into force.)

Here is a summary of the impact of the major pieces of legislation affecting teachers.

Bill 3 Public Sector Restraint Act

- teachers can be fired for a wide variety of causes effective January, 1984;
- the provincial cabinet and school boards are given wide powers to make and apply termination regulations;
- salaries of principals, vice-principals and other "supervisors" can be set by cabinet order;
- contract guarantees are over-ridden by the bill.

Bill 6: Education (Interim) Finance Amendment Act

- the minister of education limits the budgets and expenditures of all school districts until 1987. (The financial details released by the minister of education show an effective decrease of approximately 25 per cent in expenditures in real terms in the public schools from today's levels to the end of 1986. This will result in the elimination of 3,000 teaching positions.)

Bill 11: Compensation Stabilization Act

- public sector wage controls are made permanent;

- the cabinet can order unspecified cuts in salary.

- new regulations have been issued ordering cuts of up to 5 per cent, adding increments to the costing of increases, eliminating "historical relationships" and requiring "productivity increases" for any raise above the formula.

- the employer's "ability to pay" is made paramount which effectively means that the provincial government can set salaries at any figure they so wish;

- arbitrators are forced to apply Compensation Stabilization Plan guidelines;

- no awards or agreements can be implemented until they are approved by the Compensation Stabilization Commissioner.

Bill 20: College and Institute Amendment Act 1983

- gives the minister the power to appoint all members of the boards of colleges and provincial institutes and to

prescribe all courses offered in those institutions.

Bill 26: Employment Standards Amendment Act

- rights to maternity leave, severance pay, vacation pay, hours of work, will be affected by loss of minimum standards. (Teachers' contracts are particularly vulnerable because of a lack of full bargaining rights.)

- enforcement procedures are weakened because the Employment Standards Board is eliminated by the legislation.

Teachers should be under no illusions about this "recess" of the legislature imposed by the government. Bills 3, 6, 11, and 26 have already been steamrolled through. Under those bills, teachers have no bargaining rights left and, like many others who work in the so-called public sector, are now — at least in their professional capacities — second-class citizens. The real debate — with the unprecedented coalition of citizens who oppose the legislation — continues.

Alberta gov't balks at recommendations on school finance

An Alberta task force on school finance has recommended that the provincial government provide the lion's share of school funding.

Alberta Teachers' Association President Arthur Cowley welcomed the recommendation as "forward-looking", adding that it would maintain local autonomy and reverse "the trend of the past decade to have the local tax base carry more and more of the educational burden."

But Provincial Treasurer Lou Hyndman told teachers to hold their collective breath: the government wasn't going to be in a hurry to implement that recommendation. In fact, he indicated that local school authorities might be wise to plan for zero increase in provincial financial contributions next year.

The sharing of school costs in Alberta at present works out to about 65 per cent provincial and 35 per cent local. The recommendation in the Education Minister's Task Force on Financing K-12 Schooling called for a new formula of 85 per cent provincial and 15 per cent local.

Seek pension estimate if planning retirement

Thinking of retiring next year? If you are, please request the superannuation commission now to send you an estimate of your monthly pension. In this way you can be assured of an early answer. The address: B.C. Superannuation Commission, 544 Michigan Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 4R5. 2/OCTOBER 27, 1983

BCTF Newsletter

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION
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CLIVE COCKING Editor

The BCTF Newsletter is published by the B.C. Teachers' Federation pursuant to policy statement 36.26 in the *Members' Guide to the BCTF*. The BCTF Newsletter Editorial Advisory Board, which reports to the Executive Committee, serves in an advisory capacity, assisting the editor in interpreting and implementing newsletter policy.

Letters to the editor must be signed by and bear the address of the writer. The Newsletter may edit letters for brevity, clarity, legality or taste. Letters to the editor and signed articles contained herein reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express official policy of the BCTF. Unsigned articles are the responsibility of the editor.

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From page 2

people thought, however, that given Ms. Sauve's actions subsequent to the initial incident that she could have been returned to the counselling duties at Chandler Park in September 1983 without a large public outcry." The actions referred to were her "spirited" response to parents upset at the "Typical Questions ...", her interviews with the media and her filing (during the controversy) of an ethics charge against another Smithers teacher.

While a number of criticisms were levelled by the commission at the school board and others for their handling of the incident, its sharpest criticisms were reserved for former Education Minister Bill Vander Zalm. Commissioners gave the school board and its officials credit for trying very hard to protect the interests of a valued employee (Ms. Sauve) and at the same time attempting to deal with the public reaction. At the end of January 1983 everything appeared to be "returning to normal," the commission observed. After Mr. Vander Zalm's intervention the situation began to change. Ms. Sauve was formally reprimanded and reassigned.

"The intervention of the minister of education opened up the controversy again and provoked the counter reactions of Ms. Sauve and the equally unfortunate overreactions of the board," said the commission. "It is distressing that the minister of education chose to involve himself in a purely local matter that concerned parties at the local level had already dealt with in a satisfactory manner. It is even more distressing that the minister of education publicly tried, convicted and sentenced the teacher without the slightest hint of due process."

While the commissioners supported the school board's contention that Madeleine Sauve should not be reinstated in her former position at Chandler Park School, it recommended that she be given a letter attesting to the competence she displayed in her counselling work and that she be offered a "teaching or counselling position" in the district at some time in the near future. The commission also recommended that policies and procedures be developed for sex education programs so that rights of parents and educators will be protected; that policies and procedures be developed to protect the academic freedom of teachers; that policies and procedures be developed jointly for handling citizens' complaints about teaching materials and strategies; that efforts be made to increase public involvement in education; that a school board-teacher association liaison committee be formed to work toward the improvement of employee-employer relations; and that the indispute status of the Chandler Park counselling position be removed when Ms. Sauve receives a letter of attestation and the board-teacher association liaison committee has been established.

In its concluding statement the commission called upon the Smithers School Board to "play the major role" in initiating a recovery.

"The events of the first seven months of 1983 in Smithers were not happy. Many people have been hurt deeply by what has happened," stated the commission.

"Only the board has the authority to legislate the changes the district needs. In bringing about these needed changes it is the sincere hope of the commission that the board will involve both its professional employees and the community as partners in the process of educational improvement."

Madeleine Sauve, the SDTA and the BCTF made a prior commitment to live with the findings and recommendations of the commission. SDTA president, Harald Jordan, said that while the school board's initial stance has been to refuse to recognize the commission, he is hopeful that the more conciliatory tone of recent board-teacher discussions will lead to implementation of the review commission's recommendations.

4/OCTOBER 27, 1983



Teachers protesting new unemployed roles, Judy Assoon (right) plays teacher and Ann Matheson (left) plays student in UTAC skit rehearsal satirizing crowded classrooms and unmet needs while teachers are unemployed; skit was performed noon Oct. 13 outside new Vancouver Art Gallery.

Substitutes urged to join new sub-association network

Now more than ever substitutes, unemployed teachers and full-time employed teachers need to display solidarity to defend their common profession against provincial government attacks.

That is the message voiced recently by Kathy Tanner, president of the Provincial Association of Substitute Teachers and Ken Schadt, a PAST founder.

They called on substitutes to join PAST and to become active in the growing network of substitutes' sub-associations within locals in combatting government attacks on education.

PAST President Tanner pointed out that substitute teachers, already "on the low rung of the education ladder" in wages, benefits and rights, are more seriously affected by the government's new legislation than other teachers.

"Any negative changes in legislation controlling human rights, wage controls, medical services and employment standards affects us well before they touch other members of our profession," she said. "At least 14 of the 26 bills affect most substitute teachers. As well, the government's fiscal framework has studiously avoided any guidelines anywhere in its pages of formulas for funding of substitute teaching services."

Tanner explained that in some districts, heavy restrictions on the employment of substitutes has meant that most substitutes have had no work this year. In Sooke, for example, teachers have been allowed only two days' sick leave until January, so teachers were having to work

when ill, or cover sick colleagues' classes internally, leaving substitutes without work.

On the bright side, she said she expected an increase in substitute membership and participation in the BCTF this year through the growing network of local sub-associations. Under this scheme, local sub-associations are being formed (the newest being in Nelson, Gulf Islands, Saanich and Campbell River) as standing committees of local associations. The growing substitute network has already played an active part in unemployed teachers' centres and in Solidarity rallies, she said.

"We have a responsibility as educators to defend our careers," Tanner said, "and the education system that we believe in."

Ken Schadt echoed her remarks about how substitute teachers, long struggling at or below the poverty line, have fallen victims to the government's "widest and deepest cuts." Many are being forced on to welfare, he said. But one positive note, he added, is that the government attacks are making people join together in common action.

"This unparalleled adversity since the Second World War is creating a new responsibility and solidarity," said Schadt. "Now is the time for more of us to take substantive steps on behalf of the exploited. Now the opportunity exists for all teachers to turn the tide around. Speak up and let yourself be heard. Stand up and be counted at the rallies. Show your support. Demonstrate your solidarity."

Letters

More information needed on implications if teachers to strike

How nice to relax for a moment in the midst of a hectic teaching day to peruse my, sorry, our newsletter. Ah, "Strike Vote Called." "Prince George Shows Solidarity." Well, so much for relaxing. Maybe elsewhere something passive ... Oh dear, "BCTF will fight Bill 3 firings with job action." "Teachers cannot afford to be submissive." "Fernie teachers threaten strike."

One point was not raised. If teachers go on strike: what would be the possible consequences for teachers? For principals? How would the BCTF handle public opposition? A self-righteous premier? Would teachers receive strike pay? How long would the executive keep teachers on the picket line?

The proposed (and passed) legislation introduced by Social Credit this session is abominable and merits the wrath of Thor. Unfortunately, Thor is not a voting member of the BCTF. Before the BCTF receives the vote of John, John needs more information. Hype never lasts. The BCTF needs an informed, prepared

membership if we are to walk. We will be facing our students' parents and other local townspeople. Not you. It's time for the BCTF Executive Committee to earn its wages on this issue.

John V. Christoffersen
150 Mile House Elementary

"Restraint" program will cost teachers dearly — vote strike

I wish to urge all members of the BCTF to vote to strike on November 1.

I am a parent of a child in Grade 1. I am a BCTF associate member (as I teach in the provincial government). I am very concerned about the education my daughter is receiving. I see no other way to convince the government their restraint package is not RESTRAINT but legislation which will cost us dearly in the years to come.

If my child misses school for a short while while you are on strike it will not matter. Especially if this means education funding is established.

Kay Matusek
Associate member
Vancouver

Arts specialists unite to defend cultural programs

Arts educators from various disciplines and levels have joined together in a campaign to defend cultural programs in schools.

At an Arts Advocacy Institute held at the Vancouver Teachers' Centre on October 22 and organized by BCTF music, art and drama specialist associations, school and university teachers and community arts organization representatives explored means of counteracting the growing threats to school music, art and drama programs resulting from new government policies.

One immediate action to come out of the meeting was the preparation of a petition, signed by all present, which is being forwarded to the three universities requesting consideration that at least one fine arts course be required for admission to university. Other planned actions include:

- preparation of information brochures on the value of the arts;
- co-sponsorship, with the Community Arts Council, of a Communications Centre;
- development of course selection outlines for school counsellors;
- preparation of a "Cookbook of Ideas" for parent/community involvement in support of arts programs.

Further information about the Arts Advocacy program may be obtained from Kit Grauer, arts program coordinator, Richmond School Board, 278-9521.

Teacher militancy grows in Alberta

Teachers in the Alberta county of Lac Ste. Anne walked off the job on October 24 to back salary demands.

The Lac Ste. Anne teachers want a 6 per cent salary increase across the grid to bring them in line with other provincial settlements. The board is offering no increase at all and, at the same time, is attempting to remove automatic increments from the agreement and the inclusion of principals and vice-principals.

Elsewhere, as teacher militancy appears to be growing in Alberta, strike votes are being held in three rural areas: southern Alberta, Sturgeon and Elk Island.

At the end of September, North Central East teachers returned to the classroom after a strike of seven school days in which they achieved a 4 per cent increase.

Norman Alcock speaks on peace education

The public is invited to hear Dr. Norman Alcock, physicist, founder of Canadian Peace Research Institute, a director of Science for Peace, who will speak on the subject of "Why we need peace education."

The address will take place at John Oliver Secondary School, 530 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver, on Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by the B.C. Peace Education Coalition. For more information contact Dr. Matthew Speier, 986-1911 (521) or 224-7165.

Solidarity Times

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